

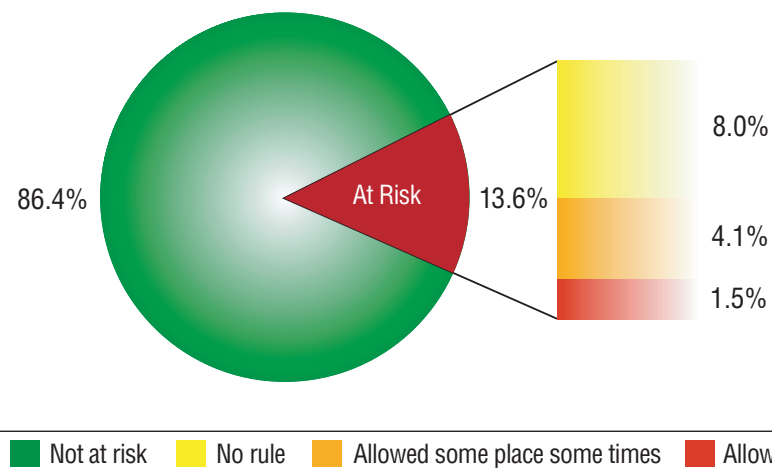
FACT SHEET Secondhand Smoke in Your Car and Home

Hawai'i State Department of Health

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, which means it is a known cause of lung cancer in humans. [1]
- About 9-12 million young children are regularly exposed to their parents' cigarette smoke at home. This translates into approximately one-fourth of American households with young children that allow smoking indoors. [1]
- The EPA estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for between 150,000 and 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in infants and children under 18 months of age annually, resulting in between 7,500 and 15,000 hospitalizations each year. [2]
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are also more likely to have reduced lung function and symptoms of respiratory irritation like cough, excess phlegm, and wheezing. [2]
- Secondhand smoke can also lead to a buildup of fluid in the middle ear, the most common cause of hospitalization of children for an operation. [2]
- Pregnant women exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher instance of pre-term labor, birth defects, low birth weights and miscarriages. [2]

Percent of Children in Hawai'i at Risk of Exposure to Second Hand Smoke by Rules Governing Smoking at Home (Estimated at 40,200 children) Year 2000



Data Source: Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Special Report July 2003, Hawai'i State Dept. of Health

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1. National Cancer Institute. (1999). *Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke: The Report of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph no. 10* (NIH Pub. No. 99-4645). Bethesda, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute.
2. Environmental Protection Agency. (1994, 06/26/00). Setting the Record Straight: Secondhand Smoke is a Preventable Health Risk. Available: www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/strsfs.html#introductions [2001, 07/26/01].